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SUBJECT Bernice M. Hetzner, A.B., M.A., Emeritus Professor, Library
DATE May 1, 1980
INTERVIEWER Pete Boughn, for the University of Nebraska Medical Center's
History Series

Boughn Mrs. Hetzner is probably the person most responsible for the splendid library we have at the Medical Center today. I hope you won't dispute that, Bernice. I'd like to go back a little bit and see how a person becomes a medical librarian and what got you here. You were born in Omaha, I believe.

Hetzner That's right.

Boughn And attended high school where?

Hetzner Technical High School.

Boughn O.K. What did you get interested in, in high school?

Hetzner Well, in high school I had taken a business course plus college preparatory course because I didn't know whether I could go to college or not, and I thought if I didn't go to college the business course would help me. In fact it helped me in college because I learned shorthand and typing, and when I did go to college I could take all the lecture notes in shorthand and type them up and have my lesson.

Boughn I'm sure you were -- I'd guess you were an avid reader.

Hetzner Oh yes.

Boughn Almost
/ from the beginning?

Hetzner As long as I can remember, I read everything I could get my hands on. I walked from 34th, 35th and Howard down to the Public Library at 19th and Harney. I would get as many books as they would let me have and bring them home and read them, take them back the next week, and ...

- Boughn I guess you may know what I'm kinda trying to get at -- when this spark to be a librarian occurred, or was it just a gradual thing?
- Hetzner Well, that occurred because my history teacher in high school, Pearl Donahue, lived with one of the librarians at Tech High School, and they were always looking for students to work in the library and she recommended me to the chief librarian there as a good student and possible worker in the library. May Ingles, who was the director of the library there, an outstanding high school librarian, in fact world reknown, sent me a notice to come in and see her in the library. I thought, oh dear, now what have I done. She asked me if I'd like to work in the library. To me this was a great honor, which I accepted, and I worked during my study period^s and after school, on Saturday ^{and} during vacations, in the library.
- Boughn What did you do?
- Hetzner Well, I was at that time what they call a student assistant, and we shelved books and filed cards, and we wrote out overdue notices. On Saturdays we read the shelves, which meant that we put all of the books back in the places where they're supposed to be.
- Boughn What were you in high school, what grade?
- Hetzner Oh, I think this was probably my sophomore year, my second year in high school, and so I worked in the library then until I graduated. And when I graduated I still didn't know . . . I didn't have the wherewithal to go to college, and there weren't scholarships, and there weren't federal funds in those days.
- Boughn Were there even library training programs, that is, courses or a degree, or anything like that?
- Hetzner There were library training programs but there was only, oh, something like fifteen schools in the country. At that time the library

training course was a senior undergraduate course. There were two schools in the United States that had graduate programs and they were not in the midwest. They required that the student go for the fifth year but only gave the person a Bachelor of Science degree on top of an A.B. degree, which is called a fifth year degree. The enrollment in library schools is very limited. There were some training programs in public libraries but they didn't lead to a degree in library science. But May Ingles again kept advising me to go to college, and after I graduated from high school I went to work full-time in the Tech High library, and they called me a Library Clerk.

Bouthn At this point did you think this might be your work?

Hetzner Oh yes. I just thought it would be great to be able to talk to the students and tell them what was good to read, you know, what would be interesting for them or to answer questions. I just thought it was great if they had a question in history or what not, or in science, to find the answers.

Boughn I gather this librarian was not only well reknown but she had the ability to inspire.

Hetzner Yes, yes. They had five or six librarians there, all with degrees in library science. Alice Horsfall was a great influence, not only for me but for lots of students, and she later became director of the library, chief librarian, at Benson High School. When May Ingles retired, Iva Winterfield, who was in the library at this time and one who was instrumental in getting me recognized by May Ingles and recommending me for work in high school, she was an outstanding librarian and became the chief librarian at Tech High. They were a group of very dedicated women; we didn't have men in library science in those days. I just thought it was a great thing to be able to read all this material and then be a resource person for other people who wanted to read and to study. And so I followed the advice of Miss Ingles and she recommended that I investigate the University of Denver as a library school.

Boughn Now at this point you are working full-time, right after your high school graduation.

Hetzner Full-time, and that went on for two years, and finally she said you're not going to get any place here. Why don't you think seriously of going to college. Well, I was earning maybe \$80, \$90 a month and I was saving \$50 or it a month so I could go to school. I got all the requirements from the University of Denver; it was a brand new school, and found out what you had to have to get into library school as a senior. So I started taking those courses at Creighton.

Boughn O.K. Creighton, you enrolled at first.

Hetzner Yes, so I went there full-time for one full year and I had to study German and I had to study French, and I had to have a broad curriculum which is what library science based their program on. I went there full-time one year, went back to work for a year, and then went another full-time to Creighton and while I was working that one year in between, I took a two-hour lunch period and took a French course on my lunch hour and worked until 6 o'clock at night. That way I was able to get into library school as a senior with just a little over two years.

Boughn So you went two years to Creighton and then you . . .

Hetzner Transferred to the University of Denver.

Boughn O.K., what year was that, about?

Hetzner That was 1935. You see the depression had hit and people were in pretty bad shape but I had saved enough money and my folks and my grandmother helped a little bit. So I went to Denver to library school and at that time I thought I'd like to be a high school librarian and I specialized that -- you take a general course. I had come out at Creighton with a major in social studies and a minor in foreign languages and I had had some science but not very much. I'd had biology, zoology, that sort of thing. Then when I got to Denver I thought I

would specialize in school library work, and we had very good experience there with very good teachers, and we did all our practice work either in the University library or in the Denver public library. And I was there and chairman of the committee that made a presentation to the accreditation group because this was a new school and I went in when it was provisionally accredited, but Miss Ingles said, don't worry, with that director out there, a woman she knew personally, it's going to be accredited. So that was a nice experience. So we were accredited, and about that time they sent the librarian from Colorado State Teachers College in Greeley, sent her back to Columbia to school and they needed somebody to work in the library while she was gone. So they came to the University of Denver and selected two students to work half-time in the library at Greeley and take graduate studies at Greeley. So I was one of the people that was selected; this way I received a fellowship to work on my Master's degree and that was in education because I was still going to be a school librarian. And so this was great. I had the additional experience, you see, of working in the college library. This is now known as Northern Colorado University. And picking up my Master's. I went twelve months.

Boughn Oh, you have a twelve months' degree. You came out of that with a Master's.

Hetzner With a Master's, which served me very well because then I did go into school work, and this was a bona fide Master's degree that they recognized, school systems would recognize, where they didn't recognize the B.S. that was granted in the fifth year.

Boughn Right. Stop just a moment. You mentioned that there were a few schools who offered library training. What is the situation today? Now we're not even getting into medical librarianship, but for librarians.

Hetzner Oh, for librarians there is one in almost every state. Nebraska excepted; there is not a Nebraska library school accredited.

Boughn And you get a Bachelor's . . .

- Hetzner No, now it is all gone to graduate studies. Almost all the library schools require a degree, and the degree that is recognized is the Master's degree in Library Science. You can even go and get a Doctor's degree in Library Science now if you're going into administrative work. And sometimes librarians will then get a second degree in a subject. But back in those days, you got your schooling as quickly as possible . . .
- Boughn So you could earn a living.
- Hetzner And there weren't that many -- fifth year schools, and some of them were very theoretical, like the University of Chicago. And you got an awful lot of background in theoretical study but not very much practical.
- Boughn Now, with your Master's degree, where do you go?
- Hetzner Well, I came right back to Omaha. I keep coming back to Omaha. Well, at that time, about that time, they were beginning to realize that it was important for elementary schools to have libraries, and they didn't have very many people trained in library science. They also had what they called a professional library. This was a library for the teachers. This was a collection of books on the theory and practice of education, principles of education. So I was hired to run that professional library which was down in the City Hall, the old City Hall with the elevators in the center court.
- Boughn Yes. That was, in other words, a central place for all teachers in the school system.
- Hetzner The whole top floor was the Board of Education.
- Boughn Oh, I didn't realize that. I'm aware of that building. I remember that, but . . .

Hetzner The courts were there, and the City Council met there, and so forth, and the top floor was the Omaha Public Schools.

Boughn And you were appointed to run that. What was your title there?

Hetzner I was the Supervisor of Elementary School Libraries and Librarian of the Professional Library. Whew! A great, great title, and I'm sure I threw my weight around pretty good, but most young professional do before they learn that they don't know everything, but I spent half days going around to all the elementary schools, helping them organize their libraries and giving directions to the teachers who were in charge of a library. I would do that in the morning and then in the afternoon I would be down at the City Hall organizing the collection there and answering reference questions for teachers, and so forth.

Boughn How long did you hold this position?

Hetzner Three years, from 1936 to 1938. This was during the WPA days. This was another experience that at the time was not any too pleasant but I think it probably helped me learn a few lessons. I had 110 WPA workers who were hired by the public schools to go into the libraries and repair the books and to catalog them, to bind them, to clean them up, and these were people who were all older than I was.

Boughn But you were their supervisor.

Hetzner I was their supervisor. Well, all public schools had trouble getting enough money to run their libraries, and along about 1938 I had worked for months on a book list. It was my responsibility to order all the books for all the libraries in elementary schools and I had worked on that diligently and drawn up the list for each school and they kept asking me to cut it down and cut it down and finally wiped it out.

Boughn No more books.

Hetzner No more books, and I was pretty disheartened about that. About that time I heard that the Los Angeles County Civil Service was opening up

their Civil Service examinations to librarians outside of the county and the state. Ordinarily they hired natives but I received notice that these library jobs were going to be open and they were going to hold exams. By this time I was pretty discouraged with the Omaha Public School System, so I went to California and took the exams.

Boughn You went out there with no job in sight, in a sense.

Hetzner Well, I went out. This was in the days when you traveled on a train. I went out on a train and sat up all the way 'cause I couldn't afford to have a sleeper, and got there one day and took the exam the next. Well, in fact, I took two exams, one for the school department and one for the children's department, and I came out #1 on the school department and #2 on the children's department.

Boughn Any idea how many people took the test?

Hetzner Oh, I don't know, but it seemed to me maybe there were 50 or 60 of us. It was not only a written test but a personal interview. And I remember one of the interviewers asked me about the Unicameral in Nebraska. This was about the time the Unicameral came into being. Also the White Spot.

Boughn Referring to the lack of taxation.

Hetzner Yes. Of course I wouldn't be surprized if I didn't mouth off a bit. No taxes, and no books, either. Well, anyway, they offered me the job, either job that I'd like to have. I took the one in the school department but that meant that I had to come back home and get all packed up. I can't remember whether I stayed on until September or whatever. I fulfilled my obligation here and went out to California. In that job, I shouldn't call it a job . . . in that position . . .

Boughn A position, now.

Hetzner I dealt almost entirely with the school superintendents and the teachers. We were the depository for the collection for schools in unincorporated

districts of Los Angeles County. This meant from the ocean to the desert.

Boughn Right, and there were many communities that were unincorporated but got county services.

Hetzner That's right, county services, and library services would be included in on that. They would tell us, we are now going to study the Navajo Indians, and we would make up the library on the Navajo Indians and it would be delivered to the school. When they finished that, they might be studying the children of Mexico. We provided package libraries, sort of, for them, and we provided all their cataloging, record keeping, and so forth. And This was contracted; we had with these local school systems, they paid so much for the service. So I had done some lecturing at the University of Omaha for teacher-librarians, teaching them how to manage a school library.

Boughn That was when you were with the Omaha School System.

Hetzner When I was with the Omaha Public Schools. Well, I did the same thing with the Los Angeles County Schools. They would have what they called institutes, and the teachers would put in, say, a solid week before school opened, and they could take courses of this kind or that kind, and I would teach them the latest. I would try to lecture on the new books, the new methods, and so I got a little experience there in both places in teaching which I liked. I liked teaching on that level; I found out I didn't do very well with little children, particularly junior high school.

Boughn Oh, that's always rough.

Hetzner Well, and so here again, you see, I had the experience of working with administrators.

Boughn Which is quite an experience.

Hetzner Yes, and that's what I had. It stood me in good stead. It got me to the University of Nebraska.

Boughn O.K. How long were you with Los Angeles County?

Hetzner About 5½ years.

Boughn Oh, you were. What brought you back?

Hetzner Well, the war brought me back, indirectly.

Boughn Tell us about that, how you got back.

Hetzner Well, I was out there, you see, at Pearl Harbor time, and I was there and saw the trauma of relocation of the Japanese-Americans. And I met Ralph Hetzner who was one of those fellows drafted before Pearl Harbor, and then released and then called back immediately, and he was stationed at various places on the West Coast. He finally was chosen to go to Officers' Training School and that was in Aberdeen, Maryland. So when he got out of Officers' Training School, I quit my job in California, met him in Omaha, and we were married here.

Boughn What year was that?

Hetzner 1943

Boughn O.K. Now he's still in the service when you got married.

Hetzner Oh yes, yes. He was to go overseas after that, but as soon as it was possible for me to do so, I followed him around. At first he was stationed down there in Louisiana, then he was sent to Staten Island, New York, and by this time, after I got there, I thought well, there isn't much for me to do here in a one-room apartment, so I went to see them at the New York Public Library. The person who was in charge of the children's division had worked in California, in fact on a state level of some sort, and I had met her there. So anyway I went to see her,

and I could hardly get my hat off before they wanted me to go to work in the New York Public Library. They were so desperate for people because so many people had gone into war work of some sort and so I, for a little while, worked at the Riverside branch of the New York Public Library, and this was up at 69th and Amsterdam by Columbus Circle, and it was again a unique experience because here it is in a large public library system. The New York Public Library, of course, is famous the world over, and working in the children's department, I was allowed to select books for the children's department. I answered questions of school children from next door who would come over, and so forth. So I stayed there until Ralph was transferred. He was transferred that time to a port of embarkation and so I came home again. Came back to Omaha again.

Boughn '44?

Hetzner The end of '43. And believe it or not, I worked for the World-Herald for a little while.

Boughn What'd you do there? Right after you got back?

Hetzner Right after I got back. I worked at the Information Desk where people called up and asked questions . . . you ought to call the Public Library for that. Well, I didn't stay there very long because I had an opportunity to go to New Orleans and be with Ralph for a while before he went overseas. And when I came back I received a call from the same May Ingles, my high school librarian. She had retired and was living in Lincoln and St. Elizabeths Hospital was looking for a temporary librarian . . .

Boughn St. Elizabeths in Lincoln.

Hetzner In Lincoln, in the School of Nursing, really. They had a cadet nursing program and they needed somebody to organize their library. I said, well, I didn't know anything about medicine or nursing. Well, you're a librarian, you can do it. So I went to the School of Nursing, St. Elizabeths Hospital, and lived at the nurses' dormitory.

Boughn So finally we get to the world of medicine-nursing-health.

Hetzner We finally get to medicine, and when I finished that project, why there was an opening at the Lincoln city library. That was before it was the Bennett Library. So I went down there as Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Lincoln city library.

Boughn Who was that?

Hetzner It was Stuart Smith at that time, and he was quite an innovator, and we seemed to get along just fine. We put library collections on in supermarkets. I got interested in audiovisuals and we put on programs for the children, movies. And, oh, we were, I believe, one of the first in the country to use a chargeplate to charge out books because Stuart Smith said, if it's good enough for Golds' and Miller and Paine, it's good enough for the public library. So that was a nice experience too.

Boughn You picked up your spirit of innovation there, maybe.

Hetzner Yes, I think perhaps it helped me to see that the routines weren't always sacrosanct.

(End of tape #1, side 1)

Hetzner Here we are at the end of the first side of the first tape and I'm not even in medicine yet.

Boughn But I'm fascinated.

Hetzner Well, we had, I think, had a good program there at the city library and there were a lot of servicemen there that we had to see that they got library service. You know there was a Lincoln airbase, a big airbase. Well, we also got acquainted with all the librarians at the University of Nebraska and, so that when Ralph came back and we settled in Omaha, we settled in Omaha because we had a house here. My mother had just died and we had a place to live, and in those days, you kinda hung onto

that . . . housing was very tight.

Boughn Right after the war, yes. This was the same house you were raised in?

Hetzner Well, no. My mother had sold off the old, actually while I was in California, yes, while I was in California, we had a, when my dad was alive, we had a 15-acre place where the Holiday Inn is now. It was way out in the country.

Boughn It was at that time.

Hetzner Yeah, and then they moved back into town and the house was much too big for my mother ~~when~~ alone so I got a call one day, down in Lincoln, "I've sold the house. Come find me another house."

Boughn Come find me . . .

Hetzner So, we did, but this is the house that Ralph and I then decided to settle down in, as I say, because of the housing shortage and because he had decided that he didn't want to work for Dupont anymore. He was an industrial chemist before they drafted him. So he decided to go to law school so he could be his own master and Creighton was on the accelerated program, still on the accelerated program, that they were in during the war and so he decided to go to school.

Boughn Where was he from?

Hetzner Oh, Ottawa, Illinois, and he had done his undergraduate work at Knox College.

Boughn What was the length of the course at Creighton?

Hetzner He did, was it three years, two years, but it was around-the-clock. Two years around-the-clock; ordinarily it's a three-year program, or was then.

- Boughn Now you've come back to Omaha so what are you going to do for a living?
- Hetzner Oh, well, I've got to have, you know, I've gotta do something. I went out to the University of Omaha and was their film librarian for a year or two, and was a demonstrator on the use of audiovisual equipment. This I had picked up, you see, at the Lincoln library.
- Boughn Yeah, it's interesting how it all, these little pieces, bear fruit. And why we're very strong on audiovisuals today in the library.
- Hetzner Well, we kinda got started on it. We had somebody else in the department who had been an instructor in the Navy and they had used a lot. You see, during the war they used a lot of audiovisuals for instructing their recruits. Well, I was there for awhile and then again, somebody called me and said, well, they need somebody over at the Medical Center. I knew Philip Moe because I had belonged to a local librarians' club and he belonged to it, and they said, they need a cataloger. So I. So I came over to talk to Philip Moe and told him, I don't know anything about medicine and he said, well, most of us never studied medicine either. And so I was offered a position in cataloging for the library.
- Boughn Now stop. Once again I'd like to back up. You're here now, you're into the medical library. At that time, was there any special training to be a medical librarian?
- Hetzner I don't believe there was any courses at all. Shortly thereafter, the Medical Library Association began sponsoring some courses but at that time, I think Philip Moe and all the rest of the librarians had to pick it up on the job practically. And I remember that even the vocabulary was strange to me, so I went through the list of current subscriptions to journals and every time I came to a word that I didn't know what it was, I would look it up. So when they talked about otorhinolaryngology, I would look it up to see what they were talking about.
- Boughn And you found out that all they were talking about was ear^s, nose and throat.

- Hetzner Yes, ears, nose and throat. And Philip Moe and Bernice Hetzner as the cataloger, and I replaced Max Fitch who was a librarian who became interested in medicine and had entered medical school here; he came out as the cataloger, he came out from Vermont, he had had his training at Columbia University but he didn't want to be a librarian, he wanted to be a physician, so he picked up whatever credits he needed at the University of Omaha and entered medical school and so the position of cataloger was open.
- Boughn You're telling me there were just two of you running the library.
- Hetzner Yes.
- Boughn Tell me what you can about Philip Moe.
- Hetzner Well, Philip Moe was a very scholarly person and a good student, a, fairly good at administration, but he was a very gentle person. He was in very poor health. He had been trained at the University of Minnesota and was a confidant of the Dean, Harold Lueth.
- Boughn Harold Lueth was the Dean, yeah.
- Hetzner In fact, there were some of us who felt that he did all the speech writing for Harold Lueth. Max Fitch was also very close to Dean Lueth, and so the three of them, you see, worked it out so that Max could go to medical school, and Philip Moe, you know, did some p.r. for the Dean which apparently he needed. And Philip Moe would be in charge of the commencement programs; we did all kinds of things like that that now are run, done by committees.
- Boughn Right.
- Hetzner They had a Library Committee of chairmen of the departments -- Herbert H. Davis, Willson Moody, Ross McIntyre, John Latta -- they were all chairmen of the departments.
- Boughn All chairmen.

Hetzner Yeah. We had a long-time employee by the name of Beulah Evans who was now a librarian. She was a high school graduate who just came to work for the library back in 1922 and grew up with the library and knew every doctor in town, and knew everything about every doctor in town.

Boughn She was a valuable employee, I can see.

Hetzner And she filled me in on lots and lots of history.

Boughn Had the College of Medicine had full-time librarians going how far back, do you suppose?

Hetzner Oh, as far as I know, way back to 1912.

Boughn Who was first, do you happen to know?

Hetzner Yes, Hallie Wilson was the first one. When Dean Cutter left here and went to Northwestern, the librarian went also. These were all full-time librarians. Now whether or not they had professional training, I'm not so sure. Madalene Hillis was here for a number of years, up until 1940, and she was professionally trained.

Boughn She was the librarian?

Hetzner She was the librarian and Philip Moe replaced her in 1940.

Boughn What was the library like physically, and what was the collection like when you first came, which would be what year now?

Hetzner I came in the fall of '47, and the library was in what is now the Biomedical Communications area, where the studio is now, that was the stack area.

Boughn That's in Unit II of University Hospital.

Hetzner Of University Hospital.

Boughn Which before was a patient ward, I guess.

Hetzner It was designed for a patient ward and this was temporary quarters because they always were going to build a building for the library.

Boughn Haven't I heard the story that it was temporary in 1927?

Hetzner In 1927. It was built in 1927 and the reading room was just like the wards were, all the way, you know, in that unit, above and on the south side too.

Boughn And just an aside here -- it was in temporary quarters from 1927 until...

Hetzner 1970.

Boughn Yes, that's pretty long. Well, tell us more about the library as it existed then.

Hetzner Well, the reading room had large tables in it that seated six at each table; I think we had 96 seats in that room. There were windows all the way around, no air-conditioning, and so the only ventilation we got was by opening the windows. About this time they were grading down the area that eventually became a parking lot ^{to the} west of Unit II, and all that dirt came into the library. The area below the library was designed for library stacks because it had very narrow windows and I believe the ceiling was 18 feet, 18 or 20 feet, and they had stacks. They started out in 1927 with stacks on the lower level and when they filled that up, then they put in a glass floor, which I think came from some old library in the system, the University system or else in the public library system some place. They put in a glass floor and extended the stacks up, these were all steel stacks. As a result, the collection which should have been arranged alphabetically, started on the bottom and then came to the top. So the shelving was what appeared to be in reverse, but this is the way it was, and the only way to get to these stacks, either level, was up or down steps, so that one never was able to wheel a book truck into the stacks.

Boughn You had to carry it.

Hetzner We had to carry it. We did have an elevator of sorts, and it is still over there in that area; -- sort of a dumbwaiter, which was a discard from the University of Omaha.

Boughn Hm-m. Kind of a patchwork library.

Hetzner Yes, because it was always temporary, you see. So the little room at the end of the ward that was on other floors used for the extremely ill patients, that was the librarian's office. And we had one telephone. . .

Boughn For the whole library.

Hetzner For the whole library, yes. And a card catalog.

Boughn Where was your office as a cataloger?

Hetzner Oh, that was down in the stacks.

Boughn Down in the stacks.

Hetzner Down in the stacks, and we had just bare electric light bulbs that you turned on and off with a chain, and when they surveyed the library to give us information for our library program, our building program, they told us that the lighting in the stacks didn't meet the minimum requirements for a cocktail lounge.

Boughn That's pretty good.

Hetzner That gives you an idea of how grim it was down there. We sometimes, when we started talking, /well, we started talking about a new library right away, but we started to gather statistics and data, and the temperature would sometimes go up to 110° and the humidity down to 10%, which is terrible for the books...

Boughn As well as for the people.

- Hetzner Yes. For books because they had to last; the people we can replace. So when I came over again I was just going to work for a couple of years or so, but that was in October, and along about May or June Dr. Philip Moe, he wasn't a doctor, Philip Moe became ill, practically at his desk, and the Dean sent him to see his physician, they put him in the hospital, and never came back. And after a little while, the Dean asked me if I ... on the recommendation of Max Fitch . . . asked me if I'd be Acting Librarian, which I agreed to do.
- Boughn With this, did you get a little increase in salary for being Acting?
- Hetzner Oh no, oh no, no.
- Boughn In those days you didn't.
- Hetzner No, and I was making less than \$200 a month. And so they appointed a search committee. Well, about this time I woke up to the fact that I didn't work for the College of Medicine; I worked for the Library Department of the University of Nebraska.
- Boughn Located in Lincoln.
- Hetzner Located in Lincoln.
- Boughn How did you find this out?
- Hetzner Well, it must have been that I wanted something -- I wanted more books or I wanted something that the administration, I felt, should buy, and I went to Dean Lueth and I said, we just have to have more money for surgery books or whatever. He said, don't talk to me. I don't have anything to do with it. You have to talk to Frank Lundy, Director of Libraries, in Lincoln. And I discovered then that he and Frank Lundy didn't get along very well and since I worked for the Library Department and not the College, why . . .
- Boughn You were Lundy's girl, a terrible situation.

- Hetzner And that was a terrible situation.
- Boughn I was going to ask you about, you know, Dean Lueth's support of the library, I think you told us something about it.
- Hetzner Well, things were really very sticky because I felt that I was there to give good library service to the medical faculty and the medical students and the School of Nursing, and this was the kind of encouragement I got from the library committee. They were all very supportive and they did everything they could to make the program operate on a high level, but Dean Lueth . . . well, it even got to the place where he wouldn't speak to me. He would come in with a reference question and hand it to Miss Evans.
- Boughn Did you succeed with Frank Lundy in those early days?
- Hetzner Well, yes, to a certain extent except that he felt that I was giving ultra, well, he called it gold-laced, service to the medical faculty which the other librarians were not able to do, given their resources. I felt that they were getting the cream of the budget because they were right there. They had a beautiful new building to work in, and every time that I went down to get in on a budget session, I was kinda, you know, pushed aside.
- Boughn They determined the budget for the Medical Center?
- Hetzner They did. Salaries, appointments, even clerical appointments, and the budget for the periodicals. In fact, at one time they did the ordering and the paying for, of the continuation, that is, the journal subscriptions. But I wasn't satisfied with the way they did it and I felt that they were not claiming missing issues as promptly as ~~they~~ as they should, so I asked that that be transferred up here which they gladly did, but then they didn't . . .
- Boughn No money, I'll bet, no.

- Hetzner No, no. And Reuben Saxon was the finance director up here then and he fought hard to get the money. Well, it finally, after serving about six or eight months as Acting Librarian, they hadn't found anybody that they wanted to appoint so I said, well, I'll take it. So I became the . . .
- Boughn Was there any resistance?
- Hetzner Oh, the library committee was just great, you know, and they recommended it and⁹⁰it was all right with Lundy. This was before any of these other problems came up with Lundy. We had an Associate Director down in Lincoln by the name of Richard Farley who was very cooperative, and he kinda was in charge of all the technical, science and technical, subject areas. The University of Nebraska library system was an innovative system in that it was divided by subject areas. In other words they had a humanities department, social studies department,^{aa} science and technology department, and then medicine was included in the science and technology department. It was innovative in that respect; it was also innovative in the fact that Mr. Lundy had made as his graduate study toward his Ph.D., which he never got, the study of academic rank for librarians. So the University of Nebraska, and this was under Gustavson. . .
- Boughn Chancellor of the University.
- Hetzner Chancellor Reuben Gustavson recognized the importance of libraries, and he was very supportive of libraries, and he helped Mr. Lundy, supported Mr. Lundy's contention that librarians were academic people. So librarians at the University of Nebraska had academic rank before most others . .
- Boughn Would you be in a particular department or just . . .
- Hetzner Well, that again was kind of a sticky part. The librarians in Lincoln were like a Humanities Librarian with academic rank of Assistant

Professor or Associate Professor. So I was Librarian, College of Medicine, with academic rank of . . . I think I started with Assistant Professor and moved on up. Well, as soon as that, I can't remember when it was, but as soon as that academic rank was granted to me in Lincoln, the Library Committee said, well, if she's going to be academic, let's give her an academic rank in the College of Medicine. So they went to the Executive Faculty and Dr. Latta was chairman of the Library Committee, and I received the appointment as Assistant Professor of Library Science in the College of Medicine. They decided the Library Science because that was my field, and so every time the Library Department would raise me in rank, the Library Committee would recommend it to the Executive Faculty of the College of Medicine, so since 1963 I have been full Professor and that was another bone of contention to the people down in Lincoln because they didn't have rank in a college, even the librarian at the Ag College didn't have rank, but the law librarian did because he taught legal bibliography, and so he had a rank in the College of Law. But the problem got to the place where it was difficult to pin responsibility in certain areas. For instance, we had stored in the library additional stacks which we needed because our stacks were full and they had been there since 1940. Not erected immediately because of the war situation. When the war was over and I came on, we said, let's get them up. Maybe this is what I went to the Dean about, and he said, well, go ask Mr. Lundy. I go ask Mr. Lundy. Well, don't ask me for it because that's College of Medicine.

Boughn Lundy did have the budget. That's where the money came from.

Hetzner That's where the money came from. So it finally came down to a confrontation between the Library Committee, Dr. Latta, Dr. McIntyre, somebody else, went to Lincoln and talked to the Chancellor. It was Acting Chancellor Selleck at that time, and said, we've got these stacks, we need them and we have to have them up. And it finally boiled down to Selleck telling a man by the name of Fowler, do you remember him, whoever was in charge of physical plant. You see, we had physical plant from Lincoln who was really in charge up here too.

Boughn Yeah, and that was true in Finance and others.

Hetzner Yes, yes.

Boughn Because we at that time . . .

Hetzner Were a branch of . . .

Boughn A College of . . .

Hetzner Yeah, well, they finally then got these stacks up for us. Even House-keeping Department was, you see, Hospital. And sometimes I would say, well, I think this needs cleaning, but don't ask me (housekeeper). I don't take orders (from you).

Boughn I can see all the problems.

Hetzner It was a problem. Also, then, the problems went all over the people up here. The problems down there. Lundy insisted on making all the appointments and believe me, it was hard to find anyone who would come and work in the library, clerks and librarians alike.

Boughn Why?

Hetzner First, who would want to live in a library that has the temperature of 105°. The physical plant was terrible. At that time medical bibliography was in kind of a mess, and by this time some of the people didn't want to work for Mr. Lundy, you see. He had a reputation of being rather short-tempered and erratic, and so forth, so when they found out that their appointment was through Lundy and they had to depend on Lundy for their advancement in salary, anything like that, they didn't want to.

Boughn Just take this one issue here. When did that happen? When did control of the library . . .

Hetzner Oh, well. That ended with Cecil Wittson. We were under the library administration until about 1965-66. The Medical Library Assistance Act came in in 1965 and this was our first hope of finding enough money for a new library. There was a provision in the Medical Library

Assistance Act for construction of medical libraries and even before the bill was passed, Dr. Wittson urged me to plan seriously, not just think about it.

Boughn You had been planning, in effect, for years.

Hetzner Yes, yes. And I had been going to every single library building institute. They have them yearly and sometimes twice a year, that was ever held, and I will say this that the people here, Dean Tollman and Dean Wittson, Chancellor, President, would finance a trip for me to a building^s institute. I didn't get anything like that from Lincoln.

Boughn I see -- they would locate some money here.

Hetzner Yes, they'd always locate some money here so I could go to a building institute, go to the Medical Library Association meetings, etc.

(End of tape #1, side 2)

Boughn Planning
 / began to get serious now.

Hetzner Yes, yes. And every time Dr. Wittson would see me, ^{he'd,} /how are you coming with the narrative?

Boughn On the grant for the application.

Hetzner Yes, yes. Before that, I went to these meetings, not only the building institute meetings, but I would recruit at these meetings, trying to find librarians to come to work for us. Well, the Medical Library Assistance Act also provided for training of medical librarians; you asked about training before. And although we had through the Medical Library Association been active in sponsoring continuing education courses, we also encouraged universities to put in courses specializing medical library work, and I was active on several committees that led to

accreditation of these programs. So we then, as soon as the bill was introduced for the Medical Library Assistance Act, I enlisted the aid of Fay Smith because he knew all of the people in Washington who came from outstate, the governors, the senators, the representatives, and we urged the passage of the Medical Library Assistance Act and sufficient appropriation to support this program. We worked, Dr. Wittson, Pete Boughn, Bernice Hetzner, worked on the ^{first} application that went in.

Boughn What you said, really, is that you and Dr. Wittson and others didn't just work for your application; you worked for passage of the legislation nationally that would have this program.

Hetzner We certainly did, and in fact, one of the people at the National Library of Medicine told me that every time they turned around they had another letter from Nebraska supporting the legislation. It was one reason that I was invited to the White House Conference on Health because there was so much interest from the State of Nebraska in these projects.

Boughn Before we get really into the building, I'd like to back up a little bit. You mentioned John Latta; Lord, isn't he still somewhat involved with the library?

Hetzner Oh yes, he's still on the Library Committee.

Boughn He's still on the Committee?

Hetzner Yes, yes.

Boughn He's been on the faculty since the end of the '20's, was it?

Hetzner 1922, wasn't it, that he came here? Long before, you see. The library was over in the North Building, there, now Poynter Hall.

Boughn And he's been a steady supporter, a hard worker.

Hetzner I have a great deal of admiration and affection for Dr. Latta because no matter what would happen, if I needed some advice, consultation, why

Dr. Latta was always there and willing to help, because here I was without a leader, so to speak, with Dean Lueth uninterested, and with Lundy down there going his own way 65 miles away and not really very sympathetic with medicine either, Latta was the man I turned to for advice.

Boughn Are there any others over the years, committee members, who strike you as . . .

Hetzner Oh yes. Well, I have a great deal of respect for Dr. McIntyre because I probably wouldn't have had the courage to even undertake this directorship. I went to a Library Committee meeting as Acting Librarian . . .

Boughn That's A. Ross McIntyre?

Hetzner A. Ross McIntyre, chairman of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in those days, and Lundy came up with a candidate for the job. He had surveyed the field and some people had come to visit, and finally he came up to talk to the Committee and he said, well, what you ought to have is a man to run this library. And, McIntyre said, I don't care whether it's a man or a woman; I just want the best person we can get to run this library, so I figured, well, he's not prejudiced against women anyway. So after trying it out and after looking over these candidates, I decided, well, I can do as well as they can. Dr. Herbert Davis was on the committee.

Boughn That would be, he would be Surgery.

Hetzner Surgery. Herbert H. Davis was on the Committee. I started out with A. J. Brown being on the Committee; he was an oldtime surgeon, very temperamental sort of person but also a bibliophile, and he designed our first bookplate, that one that's steel engraving. And Herbert Davis and Dr. Moody, they were all very supportive. We finally got some air conditioning in the library and that came about, for instance, by . . . Peyton Pratt came in one day and he said, this place is just terrible. I said, well, I think it is too.

Boughn This is the hematologist?

Hetzner The hematologist. He was then in the Department of Internal Medicine which was right across the hall, so he said, why don't you find out how much it will cost to buy a 10-ton air conditioner and put it here. So I found out it cost \$1500 to install a 10-ton unit there in the reading room, and he gave us the first \$100. And I pried \$100 out of my husband.

Boughn That's above and beyond, I'd think. . .

Hetzner And then the project was launched.

Boughn You had a fund drive?

Hetzner We had a fund drive and we collected enough money to buy that 10-ton air conditioner.

Boughn What year was that?

Hetzner Oh, this has got to be maybe the middle '50's.

Boughn Because this probably is the first fund drive the library ever had.

Hetzner Well, we could go back; I'll tell you about another fund drive which is kind of interesting, and this was one launched by Robert Rosenlof, you know Bob Rosenlof?

Boughn Dr. Robert Rosenlof.

Hetzner Dr. Robert Rosenlof was a graduate student in the Department of Anatomy and he thought the library needed money, this time for books. We didn't have any current textbooks so he and some of his classmates put on a dance at the Livestock Exchange Building, and proceeds from that, over and above expenses, went to the library. I can't tell you how much it was; I could go back through my records and find out. It wasn't very much but it seemed like a awful lot of money then.

Boughn Yes, that was quite a . . .

- I think
- Hetzner Yeah. /that was the first fund drive and then the second one was for the air conditioner, and then we would . . .
- Boughn Dr. Rosenlof, by the way, is getting a Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award at this year's Commencement for so many years giving so much.
- Hetzner Oh, that's great.
- Boughn I didn't realize it started so early.
- Hetzner It started when he was a student.
- Boughn Yes, that's interesting.
- Hetzner Oh, there were a lot of people who helped me along the way. There are so many students who worked for the library while they were in school because we always had students at night and on the weekends just keeping the library open. Oh, I can't tell you all ... well, one I can tell you about is this Bob Volz who is the outstanding orthopedic surgeon down at the University of Arizona now. He received his Distinguished Service Award^{recently}/. Dick Meissner, the ophthalmologist, worked for the library. Oh, there's just an awful lot. But this Library Committee was always helpful; if we would have any problems with another faculty member who wouldn't bring his books back . . .
- Boughn It's probably been a problem for years.
- Hetzner Yes, it's always been a problem. ^{then} Why, /they would talk to him. And in those days we didn't have any fines or anything like that.
- Boughn Of course, if you had all chairmen of departments on the Committee, they were rather effective for collectors.
- Hetzner Yes. It was also very valuable in that these people all sat on the

Executive Faculty, and if new courses were going to be introduced, new programs being opened up, they could tell me about it and they did tell me about it so that when the course opened, we would have the informational sources there and ready and waiting on the shelves because if you wait until the course opens ^{and} the instructor gets on the campus, that's too late to order books.

Boughn Pick up another thread. Dean Lueth left in what year?

Hetzner About 1952.

Boughn Succeeded by . . .

Hetzner Well, there was an interim there when Mr. Saxon was Acting Dean, almost a year, and then Perry Tollman came back from the service and assumed the Deanship.

Boughn Was there a little better relationship with the library?

Hetzner Oh yes, because Dean Tollman carried a lot of weight down in Lincoln. He and Lundy got along all right; in fact, Lundy, up to a certain point then, was very, shall I say respectful, of Perry Tollman and things progressed a little better for a while until then, maybe we had another confrontation. I remember it had to do with the bindery and housekeeping and Lundy wouldn't find the money for it and Tollman said, well, I think if they want us to supply funds for this activity/^{then} maybe we ought to just take over the whole thing, see?

Boughn Did that work? You got the funds?

Hetzner No. I almost got chopped down to my knees on that one because I was accused of recommending secession.

Boughn I see.

Hetzner Well, we got over that one and gradually then, when people began to have

a lot of research grants and they would have money available in their research grants, then they would set some aside for the library, which was legal and which was part of the grant operation.

Boughn It makes sense, really.

Hetzner Yes, yes. Then came the grant, or the research and grant program, contract programs that included overhead. Now overhead was to support the library. Library support was to come out of the overhead but you know what happened to the overhead; it went to Lincoln.

Boughn Ah, that was another issue, wasn't it?

Hetzner Yes, now that's something that maybe Cromwell can help us with. They would put aside a certain amount of it into a fund and one could make application for some special project, and we did this in order to do a catalog of the Charles Moon Collection, but you see it was only special projects; it was not on-going daily bread and butter service to take care of that research man who now is asking for extraordinary ...

Boughn Who is generating expenses of the library, in effect.

Hetzner Yes, yes, because he has this special research project going, so that all of these problems took some time before they^{were} resolved, and they weren't solved until the whole financial administration of the Medical Center was brought here.

Boughn That really wasn't, didn't fully occur, until the merger, did it?

Hetzner No, no.

Boughn The library may have been fairly independent a few years before that.

Hetzner Well, we were going to get that. We got off on this building bit but you see Dean Wittson was well aware of the fact that when we made an application for a library structure, they would look into the administration

of that library and decide whether this was going to be a successful program or not, and in the eyes of the people who were reviewing this, to have the administration of the library in Lincoln and not under the medical faculty would be a detriment to our application. So he worked carefully and quietly in getting our budget separated from the library's budget so that by the time the review of the site visitors came, or by the time we wrote the program and the application, this problem of the library budget had been quietly resolved.

Boughn He probably had at that time -- Cliff Hardin was the Chancellor?

Hetzner Cliff Hardin was the Chancellor, yes.

Boughn Who I've had the impression worked very well with Cecil Wittson.

Hetzner Yes, and Soshnik was the chief business officer, and they apparently understood this because when the site visitors came there was a university librarian on the committee and he was familiar with the Nebraska set-up because Lundy has been talking about it at all the professional meetings. And this university librarian was well aware that at the University of Nebraska, the Director of Libraries had charge of all libraries. He brought up the question. Now the librarian from UCLA knew all about it too; she didn't bring it up, and I held my breath. But Soshnik picked it up and said, oh, we have to justify the cost of medical education and the library is part of that so the budget is written in the College of Medicine but . . . And there sat Lundy and he didn't even know the difference. In fact, a . . .

Boughn Of course Joe Soshnik would know anything about finance.

Hetzner Yes, yes, and I just wanted to reach over and pat him on the back, and I don't think Lundy knows to this day what happened. And that whole problem, then, suddenly went away because of the management and the astute . . .

Boughn Persuasive powers of Cecil Wittson.

Hetzner Of Cecil Wittson. Yes.

Boughn And the money -- he knew all about that. About the grant and the building, I'd like to hear all you know about it.

Hetzner Well, I had visited every new library I could and I had been in on all of the institutes, and I had worked pretty closely with Ralph Esterquist who was the director of the Harvard Library, and they had just built a new library, not with federal funds, with Lever funds, Lever Brothers. So he acted as our consultant and the application was approved. And about this time there was a freeze on funds.

Boughn When was this, the application approved? What year, I mean.

Hetzner This has got to be 1966. The thing went through . . .

Boughn And they froze the funds.

Hetzner And then they froze the funds, yes. We were approved along with a lot of others. Are you interested in why they froze the funds?

Boughn Yes.

Hetzner Well, this was a disagreement between medical librarians and the academic librarians. The academic librarians had been included in a program in the Office of Education which was entitled Library Services Act, and their construction funds were in the HEW Department of Education. Medical library funds were under the control of the U.S. Public Health Service. Well, the academic librarians and the public librarians and the American Library Association said, you can't do this. Why don't those medical librarians come on in with us under the Library Services Act? And we said, well, we want to remain with the Public Health Service and so

while we were arguing, the federal people said, well, we'll just freeze these funds until you two people can get this ^{thing} straightened out. So we were both held up for several months and finally the two library groups got together and said, O.K., you can go with the Public Health Service and we'll go with the Office of Education which was a very good move in my opinion.

Boughn Why?

Hetzner Well, the Office of Education has not been as astute, as far as I'm concerned in library affairs, as the Public Health Service has been. They have again -- it's like the medical faculty is supportive of their library services, Public Health Services supportive of their library services. The Office of Education has got so many fingers in the pie that library services are, you know . . .

Boughn Down the ladder in priority.

Hetzner Step-child, so to speak. Yes. So the funds were frozen for a time and I understand that Cecil Wittson had something to do with ...

Boughn Melting them?

Hetzner Melting them, yes. In fact he, on his tape, mentions how he thinks it probably happened so maybe I, should I go into it?

Boughn Yeah, I'd like to hear it anyway.

Hetzner Well, apparently Chancellor Hardin and Gene Budig, he was the Administrative Assistant down there, were at the Orange Bowl game, and somebody important in the Bureau of Budget came around and said he'd like to have tickets, and somebody, whether it was Chancellor Hardin or whether it was Gene Budig, said, well, sure, we can get you tickets. How about shaking loose some of that library money? Well, when I get back to Washington, I'll see what I can do.

Boughn So football played a hand in . . . maybe.

Hetzner So football played a hand, we think.

Boughn It makes a good story.

Hetzner Yeah, it makes a good story anyway.

Boughn So what year, O.K. Then it was unfrozen.

Hetzner It was unfrozen and about that time we were also trying to meet another provision of the Medical Library Services Act, and that was to organize regional libraries, and everybody else in the country got organized except these people in the central states. And it boiled down to Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming and Utah didn't belong to anybody else's region so we said, well, maybe we ought to get together. And they looked at Colorado, and they looked at St. Louis, that is Washington University at St. Louis; so they finally called me up and said, would you like to run this regional library? And I said, well, I sure would like to try it, and I'm sure Dean Wittson would like to have me try it, but I can't do it unless we have a new building.

Boughn That's right.

Hetzner And so the man in charge of ^{these} programs, the extramural programs in the National Library of Medicine, said, at that time, Oh, ^{well,} there's no doubt they're going to get their library. Just all we have to do is get ~~the~~ the funds released, and they're going to have their library. So, as soon as all those questions were settled, I said, well, O.K., we'll work on the regional library too. And so we started having meetings on that, and again I took my cue from Cecil Wittson, and when they said, well, who wants to manage the money involved here, I said, I'll do it. Because he'd taught me that the closer you are to the bank account, the better you're going to be.

Boughn You'd learned that lesson with Frank Lundy, as far as that goes.

Hetzner Yes, yes, that's right.

Boughn So we were designated/^{the}what of the . . .

Hetzner Well, we were designated the administrators of the Midcontinental Regional/^{Medical}Library program. This was a disseminated program, that is, each one of the members in the program was responsible for a different activity. Everybody was responsible for delivering documents but somebody else was going to computerize our serials system, somebody else did the publicity, somebody, you know. And we were the first ones to do it that way, a decentralized system, and I recommended that because we had talents, we had Brad Rogers in Colorado who was very good; we had Estelle Brodman at Washington in St. Louis, so they all took some responsibility for the total program and worked it out that way. Eventually almost all the other regions have followed that same pattern since. So that was organized in 1968.

Boughn Now at this point . . .

Hetzner We were still in the old building.

Boughn No, but I mean we've got the grant.

Hetzner Yes, we got the grant for the regional library; we got the grant for the building.

Boughn I want you to tell the story, but at the same time, the Medical Center is getting a grant for renovation and a huge hospital addition and basic science building and the way it all came out, how did that tie together?

Hetzner Well, there was a master plan put together, that is, a campus plan anyway that we will have student services on the east end of the campus and we'll have to have patient services on the west end of the campus. And they were working on Unit III while we were still in the old building in Unit II they started the Unit III. Then it was decided

that the library should go above the Basic Science Building which would be on the east end of the campus. They decided that it would be a good idea to sort of separate the library and the Basic Science Building. We were still hoping we would find a donor for the library building and for that reason then, it was planned that the library be cantilevered up over the Basic Science Building, and that the only connection would be this service core. Now this posed a problem in planning the library in that it meant that the library had to be planned around that central service core, which was not a terribly difficult thing to do because you either put your services in the center or you disperse them around the outside of the building, and it lent itself to good library planning. And then the problem developed because it was decided that the administrative offices would be put on the fifth level above the Basic Science Building, and so our implementation of construction was delayed while that was planned.

(End of tape #2, side 1)

- Hetzner The Basic Science Building had a different architect than the library and a different construction contractor than the library. Yes, Hawkins built the . . .
- Boughn Right, there were two different contractors, two different architects.
- Hetzner And so we didn't get along as rapidly as we had planned and the Basic Science Building was finished before construction was started on the library, and there was a great to-do because when we started to go on up with the frame supports then the roof started leaking. Remember that?
- Boughn Oh, I do, on the day of dedication.
- Hetzner Yes, yes. So we had problems like that but they were all solved. We ...
- Boughn Pardon me for interrupting, but what was the grant, the dollar amount?

Hetzner It was \$2,400,000.

Boughn To be matched?

Hetzner To be matched. Well, now that's another interesting thing. We had asked for 75% of it and the bill authorized 75% of it, the construction, but you know, the federal people, the feds, wouldn't go for the bindery. So they took that out; they wouldn't support that area. So what it amounted to was 68% of the total cost was by the federal grant. The university, I should have the figures here exactly, one time I knew them by heart, but the university put in approximately, what was it, \$300,000; anyway, we were short; we wanted another \$325,000 - \$350,000, and that's when Cecil Wittson asked Leon McGoogan to start a fund drive, and that was started along about '66-'67.

Library of Medicine construction and equipment costs	
National Library of Medicine grant	\$1,636,000
State Funds	469,000
Alumni Fund Drive	370,000
	<u>\$2,475,000</u>

Boughn And that fund drive, if I recall, raised \$365,000. Is that about right?

Hetzner \$385,000 wasn't it?

Boughn Well, tell me now, Dr. McGoogan has been so much a part of the library. My own experience, I heard of him of course, but really did not know of his activity in this regard until that fund drive. Had he been active in the library before?

Hetzner Well, he was active in that I had contact with all chairmen of departments. The Library Committee expanded then later and they began sending unior members of the departments in; we usually had two or three basic science people and two or three clinical people, but before we would have a meeting I would contact the chairman of every department to get his recommendations on book titles. So Dr. McGoogan would be contacted as chairman of the Department of OB-GYN, you know he was chairman of and on two or three times, so he became interested in the library then. I was not aware that he had worked in the library when he was a student.

Boughn No, I don't think I knew that.

- Hetzner And I think that his interest in rare books became more a part of his interest as he grew into more, what shall I say, I can't say as he retired from practice because he hasn't, but I mean . . .
- Boughn Eased off a little bit from practice.
- Hetzner Yeah, when he eased off a little bit, and when Dr. Robert Moes began sending us rare books. I had met him in the middle '50's and he said that we could have his rare books as long as we had a decent place to keep them. He didn't think that the area in Unit II was good. He was right, you know. So, but he finally relented and started sending us books, and then he was a good friend, he and Dr. McGoogan were good friends and this stimulated Dr. McGoogan's interest in the library too, I think.
- Boughn We mentioned that he's conducted, that he was chairman of the fund drive, and I believe he licked the envelopes too. But anyway, he's still raising money for the library.
- Hetzner Yes, he still is.
- Boughn And contributing too.
- Hetzner Yes. I talked to him today and he told me how many members of the Friends of the Library he has, and . . .
- Boughn Yeah, he organized Friends of the Library, and so he's quite a fund raiser for the library.
- Hetzner Oh yes. I think that the first endowment fund/^{we had}was one that came through Dr. Wittson from a man who had been on the Board of Regents, and then I think that the next, and the next, and the next are ones that Dr. McGoogan was instrumental in getting established because this was a source of money that we didn't have when we started out and they gradually began building up ^{these} endowment funds, the Emerson Fund, the Elliott Fund, and various people that Dr. McGoogan would contact.

Boughn Of course, there's a, I see he established a memorial fund . . .

Hetzner Oh yes.

Boughn He and his wife.

Hetzner Yes, but this was not until about '72 or '73; it was after we moved into the new building.

Boughn Let's go back to moving into the new building. My goodness, when was the building completed and ready for occupancy?

Hetzner Well, we moved in the weekend of July 4, 1970.

Boughn Who all helped move?

Hetzner Oh ho, ho. That was quite an experience too because remember there was no way to push a book truck in or out of those stacks over there, so we, Rich Schripsema appointed a young man by the name of Wenke. . .

Boughn Oh yes, Paul Wenke.

Hetzner To head a team to recruit young men to work on this moving and we closed the library down for five days but it turns out to be a weekend of July 4, see, we had a holiday. And we studied the problem, Paul and I, and we had worked out a plan for each title to be moved to a certain stack over here. So we wanted them to be moved in a certain way and we had conveyor belts to take the mezzanine level out of the window, and conveyor belts to take the lower level out through the hospital, and that worked for a time. The conveyor belts, however, had been used for moving cement, concrete, and they were kind of dirty and grubby. And the staff, I had been successful in finding a couple of new people who came on the 1st of July and got in on this moving, and it went along pretty well. We had walkie-talkies from the old library to the new library. One interesting thing that happened before we could move in was that they had men putting

up the stacks, and we had ordered book supports for each shelf in the stacks, and the men were not going to make the deadline in getting the stacks up, and we're ready to move and the book supports weren't on the shelves. So I sent the girls on my staff over to put the book supports on -- these are little metal things -- and the carpenters walked off of the job, because the girls were not union.

Boughn This would be the outside firm contracted to install the shelves.

Hetzner Yes, yes. We bought the shelves with the specifications that they should be installed and so the vendor for the stacks hired the carpenters, hired the men to erect the stacks.

Boughn O.K. How was this problem solved?

Hetzner Well, I had to call and the people came over. Well, I think they came, they reported back to the company, Uniroyal. Uniroyal got ahold of Rich Schripsema, the business manager; he came to me and said, you've got to call them off. So I had to call the girls back and just live with it. So we put the books on the shelves without the book supports until they got around to putting them on. And I was running back and forth with the . . . Some of the technical equipment hadn't come yet and the circulation desk didn't come for about, oh, maybe a couple of months after that. So we just moved in some desks. But I remember we worked over the weekend and the girls that were on the staff had time with their boyfriends come over; Ralph came over and helped, because it got to be quite an arduous task and we were trying to clean the books as they came over so we wouldn't bring in all the dirt in with them, and that slowed things up and finally the young men were getting a little disgusted with the whole thing and they'd just bring them over and just dump them on the floor.

Boughn Oh, great.

Hetzner Oh, it was terrible. But we finally got it all sorted out.

Boughn What year was this? You mentioned the day, but . . .

Hetzner 1970, and we decided, Dr. Wittson and I guess the Library Committee, that it would be better not to hold our dedication until we got all settled, and then it was wintertime. So we waited until May of 1971 to dedicate the building, and at that time Dr. Martin Cummings was invited out to give the dedicatory address and was given an honorary degree.

Boughn Director of the . . .

Hetzner Director of the National Library of Medicine, and by that time I had got to know him very well because we had served together on the Board of Directors, or he was on the Board of Directors for the Medical Library Association when I was president and vice president in 1970-1971 and president in 1971-72. And then he invited me to, he nominated me for appointment to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, and I received that appointment from President Nixon.

Boughn Yeah, I was going to get into that later but you're into it now. When did you go on the Board of Regents?

Hetzner In 1971.

Boughn And your term ended?

Hetzner In 1975.

Boughn And restarted or . . . you're still, I know, involved with it.

Hetzner That book right there, I have to read it before May 20th to go to the next Board of Regents . . .

Boughn Well, were you put back on, then?

Hetzner Yes, I was asked to come back as a consultant to the Board of Regents.

Boughn Actually, going off the Board of Regents coincided with your "retirement," did it not?

Hetzner Well, no. I retired in the fall of '73. I mean I was replaced as Director in the fall of '73 and went off the payroll in June of '74. I went on part-time for a while, but I was still on the Board of Regents through June of '75 and then they invited me that fall to come back as a consultant.

Boughn I heard they found out they couldn't get along without you -- that's the story I heard.

Hetzner Well, that came later in the more recent administration crack-down on consultants, that is, the Carter administration thinks that there are too many consultants. So I was notified last January that they were going to have to find other ways of getting things done but they thanked me for my services, and I guess at the January meeting they all said that they wanted me back, so here I am, going back in May.

Boughn So you're still a consultant.

Hetzner I'm still a consultant, yes.

Boughn Just picking up some pieces. Your involvement with the Medical Library Association. It should be said, and I'll say it, that, you know, you're nationally recognized and you won many awards. You served many -- I think we ought to get it for the record, your involvement with the Medical Library Association, the offices you held, some of the committees, why don't you discuss this.

Hetzner Well, I became involved in the Medical Library Association immediately; I believe the first meeting I went to is 1948, and I was recruiting for

assistant librarians at that time. At this meeting the Association took its first action on continuing education or approval of courses and internships, and that sort of thing, for training of medical librarians, and they asked me to be on the committee for certification of medical librarians. I apparently did a fairly good job there because they then made me chairman of the standards committee, standards for medical librarianship. And I even did some inspecting of library schools to review their courses in medical librarianship. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association, I believe this was a three-year term, and this was back in, oh, it's got to be the middle '50's. At that time they asked me if I'd like to be considered for the presidency, and I said no. And I went on to be, at the . . . While I was on the Board of Directors, the Association had grown to the extent that we felt we should have a national headquarters. So I was named chairman of the central office committee, and we recruited, this committee, recruited for an executive director, or executive secretary of the Medical Library Association. We selected a person and then I made numerous trips to Chicago and we looked for a headquarters. We felt our Medical Library Association should be in Chicago where the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Library Association, the American Dental Association, all of these health professionals' associations were in Chicago. So we then rented an office, set up an office, and hired a staff for it. I was, as a member of the Board of Directors, chairman of the finance committee. Invest the money from the reserves and oh, I don't know what all committees I've been on. I had been appointed by the Medical Library Association to represent them along with one other person, on an AAMC committee. They selected some people to represent them, and this committee had the responsibility of drawing up guidelines for medical schools' libraries, and this was to help new medical schools plan.

Boughn When they were building all the new ones.

Hetzner Yes, when they were building all the new medical schools; AAMC and NLM

and MLA wanted them to get off on the right track in planning their library services. So I served on that committee and did a lot of traveling. We visited 22 different schools to see how their library set-up was, and then we wrote a report that was published in the Journal of Medical Education. That was a nice experience too.

Boughn But they came around again, didn't they?

Hetzner They came around and finally in 1968 or '69, I said well, O.K., I will . . .

Boughn You didn't have enough to do; you were just over in the library . . .

Hetzner Yeah, I was organizing the Regional Medical Library, I was in the middle of building a building, and moving into a new building, and so I said, O.K., nothing else to do. I'll take the nomination as vice president, president-elect. I think one reason why I got so well acquainted with Dr. Cummings of the National Library of Medicine was because at that time there was a great deal of tension between the medical library profession and the National Library of Medicine. I think this always happens when a new grant program comes up; when there's money to be had and there's competition for that money, and there was quite a bit of tension then, and I was able to kinda get this straightened out and get them back together by working like this instead of like this. And so I believe that this is what influenced Dr. Cummings to nominate me for the Board of Regents.

Boughn And then you served your term as president of the Medical Library Association, '71-'72.

Hetzner Yes, '72-'72. And then, of course, when you're past president, the immediate past president, you're still on the Board of Directors for another year. So actually, it began in '69 and went through '73.

Boughn You just went skipping through . . . You published a lot of things.

Hetzner Yes, some . . .

Boughn I know a very prestigious honor was given to you once, the Murray Gottlieb Prize Essay Award, and you're going to have to tell me about it.

Hetzner Well, Murray Gottlieb was a rare book dealer, and he was very close to medical librarians because he specialized in medical rare volumes. He left a legacy to the Medical Library Association to award a prize to a medical librarian, it was restricted to medical librarians, who would write an essay on American medical history. And so I was digging around and found all this information on the Omaha Medical College. Fortunately for us, somebody preserved the secretary's minute book. So I put together a history of the Omaha Medical College and submitted it to the essay contest, and I won a prize! It's a nice citation; there was no money involved. Oh yes, yes, I got \$50.

Boughn Oh.

Hetzner I got \$50.

Boughn Enough to frame it. Well, it's a prestigious thing, I know that.

Hetzner And it was, of course, published in the Medical Library Association bulletin.

Boughn I just jotted down you're listed in Foremost Women in Communication, Who's Who in American Women, Who's Who in the Midwest, etc. What, well, let's go back and pick up a few threads once again. Boy, I'm going to throw a tough one at you now, and that's to give me your assessment about Cecil Wittson. And I'm saying it's tough because it's kinda hard to put it in a few words.

Hetzner Well, the people that I've worked with here have all been supportive of the library, and they've been nice people to work with. I'm thinking of the administration, Perry Tollman and all the Library Committee people.

But the man who was able to put his hand in the money bags and give us the financial support was Cecil Wittson. I don't know why it is but libraries are always the last ones to get the financial support they need. They're the first ones to be cut when times are tough. He started out with a library down at NPI and at that time we found a librarian who had a good background in psychiatric practice, and he was instrumental in bringing her here, and she was part-time down there and part-time on the library staff, and we built up quite a library down there but I always kinda had a feeling that Dr. Wittson wanted to have a little library system all his own down there. After he became Dean, he went to a Library Committee meeting and he said, "All these years I've been fighting you but now I'm on your side." And I thought it was great that he would even admit that there was any, you know, disagreement on how library service should be organized. But now he was on my side and believe me, he was on my side all the way. And it wasn't long before he was finding money here or there; he had this genius of finding money and knowing where to put it, because without telling me why, he started to be giving, adding money to the library book budget and the periodical budget. He would find money to give us some support in the staff, and it turns out that ⁱⁿ the Medical Library Assistance Act, some of the awards were based on what you had spent the last two years.

Boughn He was building that up.

Hetzner He knew about this. I didn't know about it. I didn't know how they'd make these formulas for awards to build up your resources. So this was good money well-spent and the same thing was true when it came to the College of Nursing, or the School of Nursing as it was then. He knew that there was going to be funds to supplement the nursing program and so he threw money into . . . we bought nursing books that we just didn't think we'd ever be able to afford. The Library Committee had always been very supportive of the journal budget, and if there was any tight money and if there was going to be any shortage, then it would be in the book budget, not in the journal budget, and for a good reason because the journals go on and on, the textbooks go out-of-date. So there were times

when we just didn't buy much at all. But Cecil Wittson was so well informed as to what was going on, I'd learned that if he dropped a word about why don't you do so-and-so, it's best you do it because he knew it was going to lead to something that was going to be progressive and something that you really wanted to do anyway, see. So I have a great deal of respect for him and I feel that the library would not have the building it has, we wouldn't have the regional library, we wouldn't have a lot of things that we have now if it hadn't been for Cecil Wittson. And we always . . . ^{after} he turned to me and said he was on my side.

Boughn That turned the corner.

Hetzner That turned the corner.

Boughn Now you "retired" what year?

Hetzner 1973.

Boughn And of course you've been working ever since. Why don't you discuss what you were doing, the projects you've done, since.

Hetzner Well, in 1973 when David Bishop replaced me as director, I asked him if I could stay on and I promised not to interfere with the daily operation. Oh, he was glad to have me stay and gave me this office and I felt that the library had accumulated a lot of information about the practice of medicine in the State of Nebraska so I looked around for a project where I might be helpful in that. In fact, we had started to compile an index for Tyler's "History of Medicine in Nebraska." Tyler published a book in 1928 and it had no index, and I knew from using it all these years that it had a lot of errors in it. And the index started when Dr. Don Harvey came to me and said he would like to sponsor some sort of a work program for his daughter. She wanted to work during a summer vacation and he wanted to support this work program.

(End of tape #2, side 2)

Hetzner

So Dr. Harvey took the book and Jennifer Harvey then compiled a name index and a subject index, made little cards for every single name, and there must be 10,000 of them. I think the whole family worked on it but anyway, that was the beginning. Then after I started thinking about it, I thought well, the best thing to do is to bring that book, make it an accurate source of information so far as I could. We started working then with that name index and we worked on it for a couple of years, and the subject index, and I went through it line by line and tried to correct any errors in it and document statements. And then we made a contract with ^a publisher in Evansville, Indiana, to reprint it. It's the same publisher that reprinted the History of the City of Omaha. I got acquainted with him through the Western Heritage people and the Public Library. So he brought out the reprint edition. We sold it pre-publication, we offered it pre-publication at a discount and were able to sell enough copies to underwrite the cost of the printing and binding. Now, the Abbott Fund supplied the . . . the Abbott Fund was given to the library to honor the pioneer physicians of Nebraska, so the Abbott Fund was the source of support for the clerical help we had. My work was all volunteer, but we had clerical help to put together the manuscript and help me look up some of these things. So we brought that out and we still have some copies left. When that was finished I still went on correcting and adding to the file any information I found on physicians. We checked all directories, all histories, and if it mentioned a physician in Nebraska, we photocopied it and put it in the file if we didn't have the book. If we had the book, we made a reference to it. So eventually if you want to know ^{of} anything about ^a physician in Nebraska, you check the book, it only goes to 1927, and then supplement it with the file we have in here. Meantime, everybody that has anything about Nebraska or the campus, they've been bringing it up here and so I've got photographs and portraits and record books and all of this, and it's organized after a fashion but not as well as I'd like to have it. The most recent thing that I wanted to do was to preserve the history of the campus and that's when I proposed to Chancellor Vanselow that he find some money to again give us some clerical help, some equipment costs and some editorial assistance, to tape the reminiscences of people who have made contributions to the University of Nebraska Medical Center. And

that's the on-going project and it could go on and on.

Boughn Honestly, it's extremely valuable. Do you have any, do you think . . .

Hetzner I have another project that I'm involved with right now, if you don't mind. And that is that I have been invited to write the biographies for the people who have been nominated to be included in the Dictionary of American Medical Biography which will be published in 1982.

Boughn Oh, who's publishing that?

Hetzner That's the Greenwood Press in Westport, Connecticut, and the editors are in Connecticut, and so we have settled on 13 people who are going to be written up unless they get knocked out by the editorial board. These will all be people who were not alive on the 1st of January, 1977, so it excludes any living people. Now, you were going to ask me about something else?